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A \$209,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will enable the Buffalo Grove Fire Department to purchase 44 state-of-the art air packs, according to Fire Chief Timothy Sashko.

The firefighter equipment grant uses funds from the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, according to U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, who announced the award.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will issue more than 5,500 grants this year totaling nearly \$600 million. The funds are used by firefighters nationwide to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs and fire prevention and safety programs.